

Vocabulary

"Students learn mathematical words the same way they learn other vocabulary - by hearing them used correctly and frequently. Use mathematical vocabulary as often as you can. Connect mathematical terms to more familiar words that students know and to the mathematical ideas and images with which students are working."

from Teacher Note
Using Mathematical Vocabulary
Grade 5 Unit 1
Number Puzzles and Multiple Towers
page 153

" Students will learn the mathematical terms as they hear them in context. Use the correct terms and informally explain to students what they mean. As students hear you and others use the terms, they will adopt the ones that make sense to them - but this process takes time. Do not expect students to use terms the first few times they hear them. The activities in this unit provide repeated experience with the same terms and concepts, so students will have a number of opportunities to pick up new vocabulary. Be aware that some students will adopt it easily, while others will need more time."

"Avoid the temptation to stop and teach a lesson specifically on vocabulary or to test students on vocabulary words."

"Help students build concepts without expecting definitions to be clarifying. Allow them to try out their ideas in class discussions, but expect them to make themselves clear and to justify their conjectures."

from Teacher Note
Beyond Vocabulary
Grade 4 Unit 4
Size, Shape and Symmetry
page 154